

# 2

National Detector  
Dog Manual

## Procedures

### *Kenneling Requirements*

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#### Introduction

Kenneling detector dogs is an important responsibility of Canine Officers, in conjunction with port directors and RCPCs.

The kennel environment has a tremendous influence on a detector dog's mental and physical well being. Therefore, detector dogs should be kenneled at facilities that maintain high standards of cleanliness and security. Ideally, select a kennel with indoor/outdoor runs and an exercise area.

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#### Initial Selection of a Kennel

If you work at a location that does not already have a detector dog team in place, then a suitable kennel must be contracted for services.

The following is a list of possible places or people to contact for potential kennels:

- ◆ U.S. Customs—where do they kennel their detector dogs? Possibly establish inter-agency agreement to share kennel facilities
- ◆ Personal recommendations of coworkers—where do they board their pets?
- ◆ Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals—may have a list of available kennels
- ◆ Kennel associations, animal shelters, humane organizations
- ◆ Yellow pages
- ◆ Veterinarians
- ◆ RCPCs

The administrative tasks associated with selecting a kennel and annually renewing this service varies among regions and work locations. Therefore, consult with the port director and the RCPC when selecting a kennel. Administrative tasks may include the following:

- ◆ Preparing contract specifications
- ◆ Negotiating price
- ◆ Preparing a Procurement Request, AD Form 700
- ◆ Budgeting for services
- ◆ Renewing contract services

Use the basic kenneling and sanitization requirements listed in this section as a checklist when visiting a potential kennel to evaluate their standards of cleanliness and security. (See **Basic Kenneling Requirements** and **Sanitary Requirements**.)

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## Basic Kenneling Requirements

When visiting kennels, pay attention to the general appearance, atmosphere, and smell of the facility. Owners should be willing to show you around.

**Figure 2-3-1** is a checklist of general requirements to look for when selecting a suitable kennel. Given that the final selection may be a compromise or conditional, the requirements are divided between those that are a “must” and those that the kennel “should have.” Lacking “should have” requirements should not exclude a kennel.

**A Kennel Must:**

- ☐ Separate healthy dogs from nonhealthy dogs by maintaining an area to quarantine nonhealthy dogs, and by taking the necessary precautions.
- ☐ Maintain a properly ventilated facility (12-15 air exchanges per hour recommended).
- ☐ Provide emergency care, or will transport dog to an emergency clinic.
- ☐ Heat and cool as dictated by climate to maintain 60–80 °F in the facility year round.
- ☐ Maintain feeding and medication schedules as directed by the Canine Officer.
- ☐ Provide in-house grooming service or an area where the Canine Officer can groom the dog.
- ☐ Provide 24-hour access.
- ☐ Provide timely and accurate communication to Canine Officers or other Agency personnel about the condition of the detector dog.
- ☐ Meet minimum requirements of the Animal Welfare Act for primary residence. (See the [Glossary](#) for the definition of [Primary residence](#).)
- ☐ Maintain well-kept grounds free of tall grasses, overgrown shrubbery, and fallen leaves and plant debris.
- ☐ Provide Runs That:
  - ☐ Are escape proof (i.e., fence on top, secure latch).
  - ☐ Have concrete floors.
  - ☐ Have good drainage, no puddles.
  - ☐ Have a solid, impervious barrier preventing physical contact with other dogs to prevent cross-contamination.
- ☐ Have Good Security That:
  - ☐ Can be accessed only by a key after hours.
  - ☐ Prevents dogs from digging out or jumping or climbing over fences.
- ☐ Have a Clean and Sanitary Facility That:
  - ☐ Smells and appears clean.
  - ☐ Stores food in a dry, clean place.
  - ☐ Is free of rodent droppings.
  - ☐ Is free of poison baits or toxic material accessible to animals.
  - ☐ Is cleaned and sanitized daily. Sanitizing agents must be approved. (See [Figure 2-3-2 on page-2-3-4](#) for sanitation requirements.)

**A Kennel Should Have:**

- ☐ Detector dogs segregated from the general population, when possible.
- ☐ Detector dogs in adjacent kennels or in the same area.
- ☐ Locations as close to work as practical.
- ☐ Indoor and outdoor runs.
- ☐ Parking accessible to government-owned vehicles and privately-owned vehicles.
- ☐ An exercise area to allow the detector dog to run around in a safe, enclosed area.
- ☐ Smoke detectors.

**FIGURE 2-3-1: A Checklist of Basic Kenneling Requirements**

## Sanitary Requirements

Cleanliness of kennels is an important factor for good health of detector dogs. Therefore, sanitary requirements must be enforced in and around the kennel. Sanitation is one of the main measures of disease prevention and control. Every Canine Officer must be concerned about a disease existing in one dog that might be passed on to the others.

There are many specific ways to keep a good level of sanitation in a kennel. Good sanitation can be maintained through a cooperative effort between Canine Officers and kennel personnel. Use **Figure 2-3-2** as a checklist to follow when evaluating sanitary requirements of a kennel.

**The kitchen or food preparation area:**

- ☐ Keep as clean as possible.
- ☐ Wash hands before preparing food.
- ☐ Clean utensils immediately after preparing food.
- ☐ If canned foods are being fed for a special diet, clean the can opener after each use.
- ☐ Maintain disinfectant procedures in the food preparation area.

**Stools are a common source of infection:**

- ☐ Remove from the runs as often as necessary.
- ☐ The method of disposing of stools depends on local conditions and the type of sewage system present.
- ☐ If stools must be carried from the area in cans, the cans must be cleaned and disinfected after each use.

**In the kennels:**

- ☐ Keep sanitary.
- ☐ Maintain in a good state of repair.
- ☐ Clean runs thoroughly on a daily basis.
- ☐ Disinfect periodically by using products suggested by your local veterinarian: Rocal®, Parvasol®, bleach (5.25 percent solution available chlorine).

**CAUTION:** Before using any disinfectant, check the label to ensure proper use against dog-related diseases and viruses.

**Around the kennels:**

- ☐ Keep free of refuse and garbage that could attract rats and insects.
- ☐ Use mosquito control measures in areas as needed (i.e., netting or other measures).
- ☐ Use disinfectants and their application by following the label requirements. Disinfectants suggested by PPQ's VMO: Rocal®, Parvasol®, bleach (5.25 percent solution available chlorine).

**FIGURE 2-3-2: A Checklist of Sanitary Requirements**

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## Monitoring Kenneling Services

Once a facility is providing PPQ with kenneling service, Canine Officers are responsible for ensuring that all basic kenneling and sanitary requirements continue to be met.

Ultimately, supervisors are responsible for ensuring that a kennel continues to meet the basic kenneling and sanitary requirements and that the Canine Officer is satisfactorily monitoring this compliance.



Supervisors should visit the kennel at least twice a year.

